

[From Winter 2006 - 2007]

President's Message

On Saturday, November 4th, a majority of CNHA's board attended their final quarterly meeting for 2006 at The Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge. As always, at our November meeting the refuge managers presented wish list items which were discussed and, for most requests, funded. The vital projects brought before the board could not be completed without the help of all of our dedicated members and volunteers. Thank you all very much.

This year, a highlight of our meeting was a guided tour of Fishermen's Island conducted by Acting Refuge Manager of The Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Sue Rice. Despite the chill wind, we all enjoyed it very much as Sue is an interesting and knowledgeable professional. She discussed the horseshoe crabs ancient lineage and use in medication, angel wing, oyster, clam, mussel and other shells we saw. Matt O'Neill found a particularly fine angel wing shell we all got to examine, but he left it behind, where it belonged, after we admired it. There were many birds we saw and discussed, including the egrets, the black headed vultures, the indigo buntings, the sparrows, but most plentiful that day were the yellow rumped warblers, affectionately called butter butts. Our binoculars caught a great many of those who seemed to be calling to each other and leading our way a good bit of the time. Sue also shared a little bit of the military history of the island from the days in which surveillance devices were in place to protect our shores from enemy submarines. This explained some concrete bunker ruins which would have been anomalies to most of us otherwise, I'm sure.

Her topics were diverse and very interesting and we all enjoyed ourselves a lot. We were also fortunate in sharing our time with cinematographer Stefan Dobert who was filming a video of the island and showing the place's beauty in different areas - shoreline and inland, different natural lights and capturing some wildlife as well. He toured a bit in a four wheel drive vehicle and we're sure we will have another great film as a result. As board meetings go, this was a delightful one.